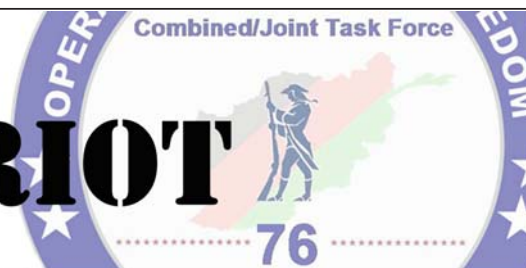




THE PATRIOT



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July 15, 2005

Army captain helps deliver baby



Capt. Jacqueline Naylor, Family Practice Physician with Charlie Company, 173rd Support Battalion (Airborne), holds the baby girl she helped deliver at the Lashkar Gah Hospital July 7. (Photo by Sgt. Eric Maynard, Charlie Company, 173rd Support Battalion (Airborne))

Story by Staff Sgt. Jacob Caldwell
TF Bayonet Public Affairs

Lashkar Gah – During her first visit to a civilian hospital in Afghanistan, Cpt. Jacqueline Naylor got more than just the standard tour that

she was expecting. She witnessed, and participated in, the birth of a premature baby in the Lashkar Gah Hospital's Labor and Delivery Ward.

But there would be yet another surprise in store for her during this special delivery.

The purpose of the visit to the hospital was to review all of the projects that had been instituted by the Provincial Reconstruction Team said Naylor, a Family Practice Physician with Charlie Company, 173rd Support Battalion (Airborne).

"They have donated a lot of supplies and a lot of medicines and have made some changes," she said. "From a medical person's point of view, Civil Affairs is interested in assessing what they have already donated, and then making assessments on what they need

to focus on donating in the future."

They need an incubator in the labor and delivery ward and also need an autoclave for sterilization, she added.

"There was one lady that had already delivered and I pretty much just sat back and watched the mid-

wives because I wanted to see exactly how they manage labor. I was impressed because they did give the medicines they use to stop bleeding after the placenta is delivered and they managed the baby the same. The difference though is they don't have an incubator. So the baby is pretty much just lying there wrapped in a blanket and cold. But then they wrapped the baby in decorative clothing and gave it to the mom. I thought that was pretty cute," Naylor described.

"Then on our way out we stopped by the door and there was another lady waiting and she didn't look pregnant. I asked the mid-wife why was she here and they said oh... we haven't examined her yet but we think she is in labor."

Naylor asked if she could feel her belly and by examining she could tell that the lady was only about 32-weeks pregnant. The nurse said she was in labor and Naylor thought to herself 'This not going to be a good outcome for a baby if it is premature'.

See BABY Page 10

Rebel commanders rejoin Afghanistan

Eighteen return from Pakistan to turn themselves in

Story by Master Sgt. Geoffrey Carter
TF Devil Public Affairs
NCOIC

GARDEZ – Eighteen of Gulbiddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Islami (HiG) commanders returning from Pakistan to Afghanistan took that giant step forward and turned themselves over to Governor Taniwal of Paktia Province June 12.

These 18 commanders came in under the terms of the Afghan government's reconciliation pro-

gram titled Pakhm-e Sohl (PTS) and recently held an official ceremony to finalize their return home to Afghanistan after years of living in Pakistan.

After a meeting with Governor Taniwal and Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) representatives, they had the provisions of the program explained to them by Afghan government representatives and then all 18 signed statements pledging loyalty to the Karzai government.

Part of that loyalty statement to the Afghan government included an agreement not to possess heavy weapons or take up arms against the

Afghan government or Coalition forces.

Their next giant step was getting photographed and filling out personal information forms for their new reconciliation identification cards. Once that was completed they were greeted and physically embraced by Governor Taniwal as he welcomed them back into Afghan society.

"Today we made another important step toward bringing complete peace to our province," Governor Taniwal said through an interpreter. "By working together

and talking about our differences we have found the means to bring some of our fellow Afghans home to Paktia to again become important members of the community, helping to build our quality of life and the peace we all seek."

He went on to say, "We are also enjoying the results of our enduring effort to bring allegiance and reconciliation to Afghanistan's new government, fostering the trust and ownership in a new, democratic way to govern and care for

See PTS Page 6

Coalition Voices / Opinion

Chaplain's Corner - Two Scrawny Frogs



**By Chaplain
(Col.) Charles
Bailey**

CJTF-76 Command Chaplain,
Bagram

A farmer came into town and asked the owner of a restaurant if he could use a million frog legs. The restaurant owner was shocked and asked the man where he could get so many frog legs! The farmer replied, "There is a pond near my house that is

full of frogs—millions of them. They croak all during the night and are about to drive me crazy!"

So the restaurant owner and the farmer made an arrangement that the farmer would deliver frogs to the restaurant five hundred at a time for the next several weeks.

The first week, the farmer returned to the restaurant looking rather sheepish, with two scrawny little frogs. The restaurant owner said, "Well...where are all the frogs?"

The farmer said, "I was mistaken. There were only these

two frogs in the pond. But they sure were making a lot of noise!"

Being criticized can be so hurtful. It sounds like a million frogs croaking about all our faults and failures. Someone who puts us down with their vicious tongue can leave us feeling a failure. Critical people seem to treat other people this way as if they enjoy it. Sometimes, sadly, they don't even realize they are doing it and the harm they are causing because it's a normal way to communicate. But often it is intended to hurt or destroy the other.

Here is something to re-

member. Problems always seem bigger in the dark. I have and I know you have lain in your bed at night worrying about things that seem almost overwhelming...like a million frogs croaking. Most times when you wake up in the morning and you take a closer look, you'll wonder what all the fuss was about.

Remember that next time you hear somebody criticizing, it's probably just a couple of noisy frogs. They wouldn't even make a good line on the menu.

Compensation for survivors of fallen soldiers to increase

Story by Sgt. Sara Wood
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - Compensation for the survivors of service members who die in combat zones and insurance coverage for service members will both increase significantly this year, a military pay official said today.

An increase in death gratuity benefits from \$12,500 to \$100,000 already has taken effect, and Service members' Group Life Insurance maximum coverage will increase to \$400,000 starting Sept. 1, said Air Force Col. Virginia Penrod, director of military compensation.

The increase in death benefits took effect May 11 and is dated retroactively to Oct. 7, 2001, Penrod said. This means that survivors of service members who died between Oct. 7, 2001, and May 11, 2005, will receive the increased benefits, as will survivors of service members who die from May 11 on, she said.

The increased benefits are for survivors of service members who die in combat zones, combat operations and combat-related situations, she said.

Combat-related situations can include airborne duty, combat training, demolition duty and training ex-

ercises, among other things, she said. A policy designating combat areas and situations was given to the individual services in June, and each service is now reviewing cases. Payments already have begun, but the process of identifying and paying all eligible survivors could take several months, she said.

When the increase in SGLI coverage takes effect Sept. 1, it also will be dated retroactively to Oct. 7, 2001, she said. Survivors of service members who died in a combat zone, combat operations or combat-related situations between the October date and Sept. 1 will receive \$150,000 in transitional insurance, which will bring them to the \$400,000 level, she said.

In addition to the increased coverage, DoD will pay premiums of \$150,000 for service members involved in combat operations or deployed to a combat zone, Penrod said.

The increase of these two benefits came about as a result of a 2004 study evaluating the adequacy of death benefits for service members, she said. The study found that benefits were adequate, but didn't recognize the unique sacrifice made by service members who die in combat situations, she said.

"There was concern that we weren't recognizing direct sacrifice of life in service to our nation," she said. "That's how the increase was made for those particular situations."



By Master Sgt. Geoffrey Carter
TF Devil Public Affairs NCOIC

Up Front & Centered

Soldiers understand that it takes teamwork to win wars. Athletes understand without teamwork you can't win games. So why do some businesses miss the correlation between being successful and teamwork?

Ken Blanchard's book *'The One Minute Manager Builds High Performing Teams'* has a quote that says it all: "None of us is as smart as all of us."

Managers may think they know all the answers, but when they involve other team members in the process, those second and third opinions could make a positive difference. That's why managers need to focus their business attention on building high-performing teams and the same is true about military leaders.

To be a better leader the first step is evaluating your perceptions. Like Blanchard says, "most managers track the content of what was done at a meeting and ignore the process of how the group functions." The first step toward building high-performing teams begins with observing how your group or team interacts. You as a manager must step back and just observe at your next office meeting. If that isn't possible, delegate someone else to act as an observer and have them take notes on:

- Communication and participation — who talks to whom and who talks most often.
- Decision making — how a group goes about selecting a course of action.
- Conflict — it's inevitable and necessary but how is it handled in a group.
- Leadership — it's all about who is influencing whom.
- Roles and Goals — who does what and what are they trying to accomplish.
- Norms — are the ground rules that regulate the group's behavior.
- Problem solving — involves identifying and formulating problems and solutions
- Group climate — refers to the feeling or tone of the group.
- Individual behavior — focuses on what team members are doing to help accomplish the task(s).

The One Minute Manager believes, "all group leaders and group members need to practice the skill of being a participant observer in team meetings," but warns that, "some people refer to meetings as a place where you take minutes and waste hours." Make sure you plan and carry out all your meetings within a set time frame and a liberal dose of oral give-and-take. There are five basic areas that Blanchard's book stresses as necessary for team development. First you have to determine purpose and values, set goals and roles and build the team charter. Follow with diagnosis of the development. Third, match appropriate leadership style and then deliver the appropriate leadership style. As a manager of a high-performing team, your job is to educate your people, to help them develop to the point where they can take responsibility for their work and to give them opportunities to perform.

Across Afghanistan / CJTF - 76

What are you mailing? Are you sure?

**Story and photo by
Sgt. Chuck Meseke
TF Devil Public Affairs**

For many Soldiers of Combined Task Force Devil, deployment to Afghanistan offers the chance to see and experience things that can only be found nearly half way around the world from home.

What Soldiers may not know is it is illegal to send in the mail or take with them certain items according to rules in place by U.S. Customs.

Some items are obviously prohibited from shipment to the U.S., such as weapons, drugs and related paraphernalia, but others such as rocks or plants may have seemed like the perfect gift.

Some military equipment, such as cold weather shirts, boots and other items that will not need to be returned to the issuing facility may be sent, said Spc. Joy Hodo, a Bir-

mingham, Ala., native and mail clerk with the 510th Postal which operates out of Forward Operating Base Salerno.

"Most of the stuff we confiscate is pornographic materials," said Spc. J'son Tyson, a Jamaica native, and postal clerk with the 510th.

Even if Soldiers are able to sneak a few contraband items past their initial inspection there is still no guarantee a package will make it to its final destination, according to Hodo.

Packages are further checked and X-rayed at mail stops in Bahrain and New York.

Not only are the Soldiers of the 510th making sure outgoing mail meets legal requirements, but they occasionally report suspicious packages to the recipients commander and first sergeant.

"We did have some (mouth wash) bottles that came in a package that smelt like alcohol," said

Tyson. "In that case we had the first sergeant come pick up the package and take it to the Soldier."

With all the regulations and rules governing what is sent and received in the mail it may seem like the 510th is the "package police." However the Soldiers working in the 510th say their top priority is getting the mail to the troops.

"Our primary mission has and always will be getting the mail to the troops, and we are working hard to do that," Hodo said.



Spc. J'son Tyson, 510th Postal, reads a bag of mail at Salerno.

PROHIBITED:

Flammable and combustible liquids and solids, cigarette lighters, oxidizing substances, organic peroxides, toxic substances, infectious substances, clinical specimens, radioactive materials, corrosives, magnetized materials, dry ice, firearms or replicas of firearms, ammunition, cartridge casings, switchblade knives (or any spring operated knife), intoxicating liquor, matter emitting obnoxious odors, controlled substances, drug paraphernalia, pesticides, lewd or pornographic materials, matter inciting violence, sexually oriented advertisements, pandering advertisements, politically, socially or racially offensive items, military issue equipment, fireworks, sand or soil, pork products and MREs.

Extra airborne infantry battalion headed to Afghanistan

**Story by 1st Lt. Anthony Del Signore
CJTF-76 Public Affairs**

BAGRAM AIRFIELD – An additional infantry battalion is expected to deploy to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment of the 82nd Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, N.C., is preparing to deploy to Afghanistan to assist in the Afghanistan National Assembly and Provincial Council Elections. The troops are expected to ship out within two weeks.

"The Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police and Coalition forces, along with this additional airborne battalion, will provide greater flexibility to continue offensive operations and enhance security during the election period," said Brig. Gen. Jack Sterling, Combined Joint Task Force 76 Deputy Commanding General. "We want to provide Afghanistan with an environment for democracy to flourish. It is our goal to allow security that promotes participation in the election process."

The Afghanistan National Assembly and Provincial Council Elections are scheduled for September 18.

CJTF-76 Soldier publishes first novel

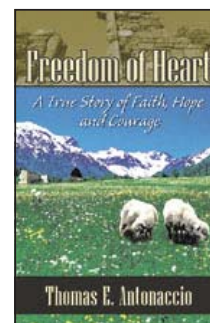
For many years, MSG Thomas E. Antonaccio has wanted to write a story about his mother's childhood experiences during World War II. That wish has just become a reality.

Freedom of Heart: A True Story of Faith, Hope and Courage was published in January 2005 (Infinity Publishing). *Freedom of Heart* chronicles the real-life experiences of a young girl growing up in Italy's mountainous heart during World War II.

Written without pretense and sophistication, *Freedom of Heart* is simply a mother telling stories to her son so that he will understand his people and the Italian hill town

that shaped their spirits and touched their hearts.

For a look at the tiny hill top community that inspired this writing project, please visit www.freedom-of-heart.com.



THE PATRIOT

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The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions for style, brevity and clarity.

Photo of the month

Photo by Cpl. Sergey Batyrshin, Task Force Lightning

Take pictures within your units. Look for unique shots that show your unit's mission and E-mail them to: cjtf76.pao.photos@cjtf76.centcom.mil
Include Name, Rank, Unit, Job Description and hometown of photographer. Also, provide in the caption - the date, location, unit mission and identify any troops.



Eager children reach for goodies the Soldiers of Task Force Lightning hand out during a humanitarian aid mission with the Parwan Provincial Reconstruction Team.

Across Afghanistan / CJTF - 76

Civil Affairs Brigade gives aid, security in Afghanistan before heading home

Story by **Sgt. Tara Teel**
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD - "During our time, we have been witnesses to the rebirth of a great, and proud, ancient land, whose people have bravely taken back their destiny into their hands," said Col. Guy Sands, Commander of 360th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) from Fort Jackson, S.C.

The more than 200 civil affairs Soldiers saw the changes occurring in Afghanistan, changes that moved the Afghan people forward towards a democratic state.

"Everyday we see and feel the irreversible momentum of progress and change that is the hallmark of the efforts the Afghan people are making for themselves, their children, and their country's future," Sands said.

During their 10-month deployment, the CA Brigade provided the core element of Task Force Victory. The task force covered all the CA operations for the Coalition forces, and at the height of their deployment, consisted of more than 1,200 service members. The entire 450th CA Brigade from College Park, MD, a smaller unit of the 360th, joined the team providing the civil military ex-

pertise. Other service members came from 1st Battalion 168th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Battalion 265th Air Defense Artillery, and the Cooperative medical Assistance Team.

The projects started by the CA Brigade were ones that employed many Afghans giving them skills to do future projects on their own and helped the local economy by purchasing materials from local vendors. One of the major undertakings, was improving and fully repaving roads, like the one from Kandahar north to Tarin Kowt in the Uruzgan province.

"An estimated 80,000 Afghans during the past year have found employment working on projects or programs initiated by Coalition forces," said Sands. "We opened 82 new schools and most of the work was done by the Afghan people."

However, not all of the projects were aimed at teaching Afghans new skills, some projects were just to provide assistance to those in need,

like flood victims. More than \$70 million has gone towards humanitarian aid and medical assistance provided by the CA specialists working at the 14

Provincial Reconstruction Team locations.

"We supported humanitarian missions giving 50,000 blankets and 10,000 single-

(Top) A 360th Civil Affairs Soldier hands out humanitarian aid to Afghans outside Kabul, Afghanistan, during the snowy winter months of their deployment. (Below) Soldiers of the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) provide medical aid to Afghans by the Sharan Provincial Reconstruction Team in the Paktika province. (Photos courtesy of 360th Civil Affairs Brigade)



Col. Guy Sands, 360th Civil Affairs Brigade (Airborne) commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Raymond Owens retire their units' colors at Bagram Airfield June 25. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Massey, CJTF-76 Public Affairs)

family tents to flood and wintertime victims, treated 28,000 people, visited more than 200 villages, and inoculated 40,000 animals for disease," said Sands.

Although Afghanistan is far from where Afghans want and need to be in terms of health services and care, they are better this year than a year ago. For every clinic established, the training of local specialists took place. Children are healthier and now more capable growing up without ailments that struck their parent's generation.

In a land where 80 percent of personal wealth is tied in with the amount of livestock one has, animal healthcare is almost as important as personal healthcare. The PRTs have made strides in reestablishing local and district level veterinary and agricultural clinics.

Thousands of farm animals have been vaccinated and given medical treatment to prevent the outbreak of contagious diseases that has in previous years destroyed entire herds.

Another significant project involved refurbishing and reopening the farmers markets. Markets were reopened in the towns and cities of more than 16 provinces and 180 districts. The markets allow farmers to get a fair price on their goods.

Getting fair prices at a farmers market provides a sense of security for Afghans. However, economic security is only half the battle in Afghanistan.

Personal security against those who terrorize Afghans is the other half. Coalition forces placed the PRTs in areas that needed not only economic assistance, but physical security as well. The CA teams have assisted in enabling and facilitating the training and operational employment of legitimate police forces throughout Afghanistan.

At every PRT, the CA teams made police training a critical aspect of their involvement so that the people of Afghanistan could look upon their police with respect and authority when they were needed, Sands said.

"These training programs were established at district and provincial levels for the Afghan National Police," Sands said. "They taught police to do their job protecting the public and eliminating criminal activities. After all, only the Afghan people can ultimately be responsible for their own security."

The 360th CA Brigade left the Afghan people with a sense of security and faith in their police forces, new found trade skills for future use, better healthcare specialists and clinics for treatment, and more schools to educate the children of tomorrow.

"We leave knowing that we have left something that cannot be bought or given easily," said Sands.



Afghans lead U.S. forces to caches in eastern Afghanistan

By **Sgt. 1st Class Todd Oliver**
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD - Afghan citizens discovered and turned in three caches to U.S. forces July 3 in Eastern Afghanistan.

The first cache was reported to U.S. forces by Afghan children playing in a field near Jalalabad. The cache consisted of seven Russian rockets and was transported to a local forward operating base by U.S. forces where it will be destroyed at a later date.



Another cache was discovered near Salerno when an Afghan man led U.S. forces to its location. The cache consisted of 95 anti-aircraft rounds, two mortar rounds, a night vision device and a rifle scope, 500 feet of detonation cord and a Soviet era missile of unknown origin. Numerous other small arms rounds were also discovered at the scene. The cache was transported to FOB Salerno for destruction.

Also near Salerno another Afghan man led a U.S. patrol to a cache of eight 107mm rockets. The rockets were serviceable and were trans-

See CACHE Page 8

Regional Command East / Task Force Devil

Girl's school destroyed by fire bomb

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Geoffrey Carter
TF Devil Public Affairs
NCOIC

Earlier this month a civil affairs team from the Gardez Provincial Reconstruction Team visited the Padkhwai Raghani Girl's School in Paktika Province. Their visit was not to witness a typical school day filled with 560 girl students and their 14 teachers, but rather to witness a hate crime.

On June 22 arsonists forced their way into the school under cover of night and held the caretaker and a teacher at bay while they proceeded to set the school on fire.

These arsonists were intent on totally burning down this school because it was teaching young girls how to read, write and be able to think independently. The school's fire was fueled by ignorance and hidden political agendas.

Himet, the school's night watchman, was saddened by this deliberate act of terrorism. He said that the local neighbors helped clean up the school the next day so that the children could return to class immediately.

A member of the Gardez Civil Affairs team, Maj. Randy Castillo, praised Himet for being courageous enough to continue his work the following day at the Padkhwai Raghani Girl's School. Castillo was there to

assess damage to the school.

"It goes without saying that education is an essential need for Muslims whether they are men or women. If someone says that education is only required for men, that person is absolutely wrong because the Koran is for all Muslims both men and women," added one of the teachers.

Himet added the Koran encourages all Muslims to get knowledge. There is a saying of the Prophet Muhammad that all Muslim men and women are obligated to get knowledge. In addition, Prophet Muhammad said, "Get knowledge even if it is in China." Meaning the Prophet was encouraging Muslims (men and women) to get knowledge even if they had to travel to find a school.

After the Gardez PRT assessed the school's damage they began the process of finding and hiring local contractors to rebuild the school.

In the meantime all the students will sit outside, in the dirt, under a tent in over 100 degree heat so they can pursue their dream of an education.

The end result of this dedication will be an Afghanistan whose people are an active participant in the reconstruction of a free and democratic country.



Girls sit outside to learn because their school, the Padkhwai Raghani Girl's School, was burned down.

Zabol governor unites tribes in Jirga

Tribes meet peacefully for first time in 36 years

Story and photo by 1st Lt. Thomas Anderson
2nd Battalion 503rd Infantry (Airborne)
S1



Zabol province Governor Delbar Arman talks to elders during the Zangier Jirga in southern Zabol province.

ZABOL PROVINCE - Governor Delbar Arman, Zabol province governor, convened a jirga July 10 which brought together the Nasir and Shamulzayi tribes in the Shamulzayi District town of Zangier near the Pakistani border. The main focus of the jirga was the settlement of an often-violent 36-year land dispute between the neighboring tribes.

The main disagreement between the parties to the jirga focused on land the Nasir tribe reportedly purchased from the government in 1969, but when the Soviets invaded in 1979 the Nasir tribe fled to Pakistan. In the years since, the Shamulzayi tribe relocated into the area and built up the infrastructure, homes and farmland to support their families. Since the defeat of the Taliban in the area, the Nasir tribal elders feel the conditions are safe enough to return their families to their former homes. Both sides presented reasonable claims to the land in question, leaving Arman the possibility of a rather tension-filled negotiation process to administer.

Arman was able to facilitate a peaceful negotiation process between the two formerly rival tribes. The jirga began with the establishment of a truce between the tribes, outlawing physical confrontations against each other under *Pashtuwali* (Pashtun Tribal Law). In a large tent capable of housing all the jirga attendees, the governor negotiated back and forth between the two parties, presenting proposals and working towards resolution of the decades-long dispute. He surveyed the boundaries of the area in question, and walked with elders from the tribes to other areas that could possibly serve to resolve the needs of both sides.

The jirga was highlighted by the calm and intelligent negotiations conducted by the elders of the two tribes. Each session concluded by both sides adjourning to tackle the issues in small workgroups, allowing Arman to lead a highly organized and purposeful discussion of the issues.

The final outcome of the jirga found the Shamulzayi and Nasir tribes agreeing to follow whatever directives Arman applied with respect to the land rights. Arman, in a gesture of respect to the elders of both tribes, volunteered to accompany leaders from both tribes to Kabul to receive a formal decision from the national government. The tribes agreed to continue the truce past the close of the jirga, continuing the spirit of hope en route to a peaceful resolution to their conflict. The following weeks will be an historic episode in the path to a truly unified Afghanistan.

As Arman stated, the Zangier Jirga was monumental because "it brought two enemies together, and after forty years of fighting they are now working for peace."

Medical clinic on wheels to promote healthcare

Story and photo by Master Sgt. Geoffrey Carter
TF Devil Public Affairs NCOIC

The Khost Provincial Government in conjunction with Coalition forces recently donated a Mobil Medical Vehicle to the Ministry of Health, in order to provide better medical services and care to remote, isolated regions of Khost province.

The vehicle donation ceremony was conducted at the Khost Ministry of Tribal Affairs and was attended by Dr. Amir Bad Shah, Minister of Public Health, Lt. Col. George Donovan, 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment commander, Maj. Cory Costello, Task Force Devil surgeon, Lt. Col. Charles Miller, Khost Provincial Reconstruc-

tion Team commander, Capt. David Harper, 2-504th surgeon and various tribal elders.

"The reason we are donating this vehicle is simple," said Harper. "Over the past few months I have visited many of the villages throughout the Khost province and found some of those villages do not have a clinic or a medical provider. With this vehicle, local doctors from Khost can drive out to remote locations and provide care and medicine to those in need."

The dark blue SUV had an elaborate system of drawers built into the back seat and trunk area that can hold cases of medicines and ointments. This storage allows a doctor and one assistant to drive out to any village and set up a clinic in minutes.

"The efforts of the Provincial Public Health Department and the Ministry of Health are ex-



A group meets after the donation of a vehicle for a medical clinic.

amples of the ways the Government of Afghanistan is working toward a better future," Donovan said.

"I am confident that as Afghanistan continues to rebuild its government made up of freely elected representatives, improvements to public health would only be a part to the overall relief brought to those remote villagers who might be suffering," added Donovan.

As elders were nodding their approval the Minister of Tribal Affairs, Mohamid Tahir Sabar, reminded them that this vehicle was to be used for official use only and to maximize the amount of aid that could be brought to the outlying regions of Khost province.

Regional Command East / Task Force Devil

Marine plans life-saving mission in Jalalabad

Story and photo by
Sgt. 1st Class Curtis
Matsushige
TF Devil Public Affairs

JALALABAD — When Gunny speaks, things happen.

"If something needs to get done, the commander doesn't have to worry about it after telling me," said Gunnery Sgt. Oscar Jordan, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment. "I look at my job as running the day-to-day operations to free the commander so he can plan the strategic battle."

For example, Jordan put the troops to work installing newly arrived air-conditioning units. He took charge in his loud clear voice to squat and lift the units.

"1, 2, 3, lift. Get your backs straight!" Jordan shouts.

His responsibilities range anywhere from supply and chow to security.

An Afghan worker needed a letter of recommendation for his work on base and approached Jordan. Jordan talked with the worker and joked around with him. After hearing Jordan's booming-

Marine voice, there was a look of concern that washed over the Afghan man's face. But that look was then replaced by a smile of understanding and friendship.

Jordan has met his share of locals, both in Afghanistan and Iraq. This is his fifth major deployment in his 16 and a half year career in the Marine Corps. He took part in Desert Shield and Desert Storm, as well as operations in Somalia and Panama.

During this deployment to Afghanistan, Jordan had the opportunity to not only meet and interact with some of the local people, but also save some lives. He helped plan an operation to save 147 Afghans from an island created by raging flood waters.

The Nangarhar provincial governor called an emergency meeting with Jordan on behalf of the stranded Afghans who were in danger of drowning in the rapidly rising water caused by torrential downpours.

To coordinate and plan the recovery operation, he had to do a



Gunnery Sgt. Oscar Jordan, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, speaks to a worker (right) about a recommendation letter and interpreter Fazal Ahmad (left) writes the information down June 21 at Jalalabad.

site reconnaissance. He checked out safety hazards, routes of the recovery, the terrain, how many Afghans needed help, and so on.

Then he returned to the base to prepare the Marines for the operation. He covered all angles of the mission specifics like how they were going to go airlift the people out of harms way.

After a long hard day's work of planning and preparing his troops, the recovery of the stranded Afghans was a success. One hundred forty-seven men, women and children have Jordan and his planning to thank for saving their lives.

This was just one incident of Jordan's dedication and diligence in his career. When it comes down to the wire and getting things done, that's where Jordan is, in the midst of it all.

Commanders join Afghan society

PTS from Page 1

our people. These gentlemen have returned home because of the trust and opportunity they see and heard about from their friends and families here in Paktia."

The Governor's sentiments were echoed by Lt. Col. Stephen Tableman, commander of the Gardez PRT located in Paktia province.

"Paktia province again demonstrates how a community comes together to restore its government and quality of life by overcoming the memories and results of war and conflict," Tableman said.

"Through Governor Taniwal's pro-active leadership throughout the province, working with his provincial leadership team and the wide range of Mullahs and tribal leaders, he is creating the trust and credibility needed for former warring parties to return home peacefully, pledging their support to the new government," he added.

"These 18 former HiG commanders came here today, returning their families from Pakistan to a new life in their homeland because they believe in and trust what Governor Taniwal and his government are developing in Paktia," Tableman said.

"We are all very pleased with this peaceful reconciliation and how the governments allegiance and reconciliation progress is succeeding in bringing the peace and development sought by the people of Paktia," said Tableman.

The healing process for the new, freely elected, government of Afghanistan takes giant steps forward every time a former commander or soldier lays down their arms and picks up the tools of reconstruction as they embrace their new Afghanistan.

Every day more and more anti-coalition militia realizes that to continue fighting their country's growth is not only a lost battle but is also not what the citizens of Afghanistan want.

Afghanistan now sees what a bright new future lays ahead of them and they want to be a part of it. The Pakhm-e Sohl program is part of that bright new tomorrow.

Soldier whittles away time with soap bars

Story and photos by Spc. Laura Griffin
TF Devil Public Affairs

FOB ORGUN-E - When you ask a Soldier what his or her hobby is, the most common response is usually something like watching movies, playing video games or working out. But if you ask Spc. Cesar Garcia, a petroleum specialist with 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, what his hobby is, you might just be a bit surprised.

"I started doing soap carvings during my first deployment to Afghanistan in July 2002," Garcia said. "It all started out as a prank with my squad leader. He put shaving cream in my helmet, so I carved his bar of soap into a (certain piece of male anatomy)."

That was just the beginning of a major past time for Garcia. He continued to carve bars of soap throughout the remainder of his deployment and continued through his deployment to Iraq and now this deployment to Afghanistan, although the subject matter has changed considerably.

"On my first deployment, I only had time to carve about 20 bars," Garcia recalled. "In Iraq, I carved about 120 bars. I'm on number 30 now for this deployment."



Some of Garcia's creations sit out on display.

Using a leatherman and a mechanical pencil, Garcia can create anything from humvees to tool sets, gargoyles to various sea creatures and everything in between. He's even done a carving of Donald Duck with the name "Serenity" under it for Chief Warrant Officer Al Hoffman, a battalion maintenance officer for Task Force Fury.

"The carving is for my daughter, Serenity," said Hoffman. "I'll give it to her when I go home on leave. I think what he's doing is very artistic. He really touches people with his carvings."

Garcia gets a lot of his soap from the Red Cross, which donates bars of soap for the Soldiers to use.

"I take those bars and carve them into things and give them away as gifts," said Garcia. "Other Soldiers send them home to their families."

The time it takes Garcia to finish a carving depends on the subject of the carving.

"A tree frog can take up to eight hours to finish, but a human figure can take 18 hours," said Garcia. "Humvees are easy, they take only an hour."

Garcia gets many requests for his carvings. He currently has three requests in the queue.



Spc. Cesar Garcia works on carving a tree frog out of soap.

Regional Command East / Task Force Devil

Being a 'terp' is a family affair at FOB Salerno for two local brothers

Story by
Spc. Laura E. Griffin
TF Devil Public Affairs

FOB SALERNO - Qais was the name of the first man to convert from another religion to Islam, so it was fitting that Qais Khan Alimi was the first of the two Alimi brothers who came to work as interpreters for the Coalition forces at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan.

Qais (pronounced "Kice") is an interpreter for Lt. Col. Tom Donovan, Battalion Commander for 2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment. His older brother, Wais (pronounced "Wice") Alimi, is the interpreter for the Joint Contracting Office here.

Last January, some Soldiers were patrolling in the Alimis' hometown, said Qais. His cousin had a satellite antenna on his roof and the Soldiers stopped to inspect it to make sure that it was not a communication satellite.

"The terps, in a very gentle way, asked my cousin's grandmother if they could go inside to check the antenna connection with the T.V." said Qais, who lived about 200 meters from the home.

The cousin ran over to get Qais and Wais because he knew that they spoke English.

"At the time, me and my older brother were teaching English at the English Institute in Khowst," said Qais.

Seeing that the satellite was connected to a television inside the



Qais Alimi, right, translates for Lt. Col. Tom Donovan, Commander 20504th Parachute Infantry Regiment, and Amir Bashah, Director of the Khowst Public Health Department. (Photo by Master Sgt. Geoffrey Carter, TF Devil PAO)

house, the Soldiers decided that they didn't need to investigate any further. The Alimis then to have some tea and sat and talked with them for the next 30 minutes. They agreed to let the Soldiers know if there was any suspicious activity starting to happen in the village.

"You guys are our guests in Afghanistan and we will help you," Qais told them.

"After about two weeks, we came here to visit the interpreter to see if he needed anything from downtown Khowst or if there was anything that we could do for him," said Qais. "We were not here to pass any information."

"When Gul, the interpreter we had come to see, came to the gate, he just said, 'Hello, I know why you guys are here,'" said Qais. "He just grabbed my hand and took me in."

Gul brought Qais to the hiring office where he was interviewed for a job.

"When he was done he said, 'O.K., you're a terp,'" said Qais. "How?!! I have my students and my classes; there are all of these

prob-
lems.
Even my
mom
doesn't
know,

my father doesn't know. I haven't decided.'" Qais explained.

"They told me, 'Just come in, try it out and work here,'" Qais recalled. "If you like it, please continue. If not, you can always quit and go back. Nobody is going to force you to work here." I said, 'OK, that is a good idea.' That was January 7, 2004. I have been here ever since."

Wais' hiring experience was a little less dramatic than his younger brother's.

"My brother found out that the contracting office needed a terp, so he took me to Salerno for an interview," said Wais. "After passing the process, I got the job. That was about six months ago."

Qais went out on his first mission just a few days after he was hired. It was called Operation Blizzard and lasted about 15 days. The mission was to search the houses in the Khowst - Gardez pass area for people who were putting improvised explosive devices on the road and ambushing the "jingle trucks" bringing supplies to Salerno.

"The first three or four days were really hard for me because back then my English was not all that good," remembered Qais. "I didn't know some of the slang and

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Wais Alimi, left, stands near the front gate with a gate guard and a potential contractor, May 20. (Courtesy photo)



Runners take their mark on Bagram. (Photos by Sgt. Matthew MacRoberts, Freedom Watch)

World's largest 10K race on Bagram

Story from CJTF-76 Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD - Marc Lenoble and Meghan Hughes won the men's and women's divisions of the first Peachtree Road Race held on Bagram Airfield.

The field of contestants included runners from France, Germany, Republic of South Korea, Slovakia, Romania, Poland, Puerto Rico, Panama, and United States.

"I've never run the Peachtree and have always wanted to since I was on the track team at (University of North Carolina) Chapel Hill," said Meghan Hughes, from Cockeysville, Md. "When I get back, I really want to run it in Atlanta. Thank you for bringing it to us."

Hughes was among more than 500 servicemembers and civilians who ran the 10 kilometer race. The runners left the starting line at 5:30 a.m. Sunday, July 3 with temperature in mid 80s. The Peachtree Road Race Time Group 13 was officially started in Atlanta at 9 p.m. EST Saturday, July 2.

The male and female winner of each age group received a trophy and a DVD player. The overall male and female winners each received a Peachtree VIP shirt and a \$50 gift card to use at the local AAFES Post Exchange.

"Our goal was to make this event fun and as runner-friendly as the race in Atlanta," said Cpl. Tim Villasana, the Peachtree-Afghanistan race director. "Relatively speaking, I think we accomplished that and more. Since the 4th of July is just another day here, the Peachtree was our only 4th of July celebration. After today, every day is Groundhog Day again," referring to the popular movie by that name.

In June, The Atlanta Track Club had sent the following support materials to Afghanistan: a Peachtree Road Race Start banner, 500 custom-made Peachtree Road Race-Afghanistan Division t-shirts, race numbers, and 50 volunteer shirts. The club also shipped official awards for the first place overall man and woman.

Julia Emmons, the track club's executive director since 1984, said that she spoke for 10,000 members saying, "The Atlanta Track Club is honored to be able to support the first Peachtree Road Race in Afghanistan as a gift to our U.S. servicemen and women serving there this 4th of July."

The Atlanta Track Club, a non-profit organization founded in 1964, is committed to promoting fitness and health through amateur road racing, cross-country, and track and field. It is the second largest running club in the United States with more than 10,000 members. The ATC founded the Peachtree Road Race in 1970 and has fostered its growth into the world's largest 10,000-meter race with a field limited to 55,000 runners.

Runners grab a drink on the way to the finish line at Bagram July 3.



Regional Command East / Task Force Devil

Upgrading Russian-built road 173rd smooths the path from Shinkay to Qalat

Story and photo by
Pfc. Vincent Fusco
TF Devil Public Affairs

FOB LAGHMAN – The Soldiers of 173rd Combat Support Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment are working to build the road to Forward Operating Base Sweeny, a total distance of 84 kilometers, over the next four months.

The road currently isn't accessible by jingle trucks or 18-wheeled vehicles, so the Soldiers of the 173rd will be laying down gravel on the dirt path.

"The theory is that the trucks can still drive on the road when it rains," said 1st Lt. Greg Couterier, Assault and Barrier Platoon leader.

On June 4, the 173rd temporarily paved the road from Qalat to Fire Base Wolverine by smoothing out rough areas of dirt with deployable universal combat earth-movers.

The road to Sweeny runs through Wolverine and the Dab Pass, and connects Shinkay to Qalat and 16 towns in between.

"The road was built 35 years ago by the Russians," said Couterier. "They're really happy to have us fixing it."

Once the road is made safe enough for commercial traffic, a convoy of 98 jingle trucks will



Soldiers of 173rd Combat Support Company work on the 35-year-old road from Shinkay to Qalat.

bring the materials needed to pave the entire length of the road.

"This road is very important because the area is nearly inaccessible in the winter," said Couterier. "This road will help resupply FOB Sweeny and beyond."

Once the road is finished, it will become a viable military and civilian route of travel.

Currently, there are Afghan National Army soldiers stationed at a compound next to the Wolverine site that assists in the construction project.

"We're going to have the Afghan National Police set up checkpoints around the city and help spread the word to the people," said Couterier. "The ANA will provide additional security for the area."

Afghans turn in caches

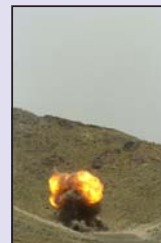
CACHE from Page 4

ported to Salerno for destruction.

"The fact that Afghan citizens voluntarily turned these mutations in, is a continual sign the Afghan people are sick and tired of war and violence," said Lt. Col. Jerry O'Hara, Combined Joint Task Force-76 spokesperson. "Besides their obvious uses against the people of Afghanistan and U.S. forces they are inherently dangerous on their own accord. When left unattended and not properly maintained they become unstable and can detonate killing anyone that happens to be in the area. We encourage all Afghans to report the locations of these dangerous munitions to Afghan or Coalition forces."



Explosive ordnance personnel with 2nd Battalion, 504 Parachute Infantry Regiment handle and dispose of caches found in Regional Command East. (Photos courtesy of Task Force Devil Public Affairs)



Brothers help bridge language barrier in Salerno

TERPS from Page 7

some guys were speaking preters was not always easy, said Qais. When they were younger, their family moved from Kabul to Khowst to get away from the Mujahadeen. But life in Khowst was not very good either, so after a year and a half their father, who is a doctor, moved the family to Peshawar, Pakistan so the children could get a better education. That is where Qais and Wais learned to speak English.

Taking English lessons in Urdu speaking Pakistan was hard for the two brothers whose mother tongue is Pashto.

"In the beginning it was very hard for us because we didn't know how to speak Urdu and the area and everything was new for us. I didn't even know what the ABCs were. All of the other students that were in there were very good at that. For about a week I had all of those problems. I couldn't do my homework, read or write, or anything like that. After that, I got situated and everything started to come together."

When the Taliban took over control of Afghanistan, the Alimis moved back to Khowst in hopes of starting over.

"We didn't know who these Taliban people were," said Qais. "My father was hoping that maybe they would be good for the country. After he opened a clinic, my father heard that the Taliban were killing people like him, he left the country and went to Russia then to Germany and then to Holland."

"It was a really hard time here," Qais continued. "I was an English teacher in Khowst. In the mean time, I got into a problem with the Taliban over some land, a growing field. The governor, who had Taliban friends, was giving my family a very hard time and not listening to us. We were about to leave the country because it was that hard for us. They put me in jail for four days and put Wais in jail for 15 days. They accused us of having communications with America and with Russia because we were educated. They said we were spies. We ended up paying our way out of jail."

The Taliban reign of terror was not meant to last forever, and as every Afghan will tell you, 9/11 was felt all the way around the world.

"I was here in Khowst listening to my radio when 9/11 happened," said Qais. "It was a live

broadcast and I could hear everything that was going on. At first, we didn't know who did this, then they said that it was the Taliban. I thought to myself, 'So, the Taliban touched the elephant's (butt), now the elephant is going to come kick them back.'"

That elephant did in fact come kick the Taliban and the people in the Alimis' neighborhood are thankful for it.

"All of the people in our neighborhood and all of my family are so glad about the Americans being here and that I am working with them because they are seeing how the coalition forces are here helping Afghans," said Qais. "Even the Mullah thinks it is a good idea. It's a part of our religion to help other Muslims. He said that through doing this job, I can educate the Americans on our culture and teach them what religious and cultural things need to be respected."

Qais wants to take his job one step further... one giant step across the Atlantic further to the United States where he wants to join the U.S. Army as a linguist.

"Nowadays I know about the culture, about the people, and how

to work with them because of my experience with the Army," said Qais. "I want to see the states, I want to go there, I want to be their citizen."

Wais on the other hand is happier here in his homeland.

"I think I would like to visit the U.S., but not to stay," Wais said. "It seems to me too busy. I like it here. This is where my family is."

Qais and Wais live with the other interpreters in the "terp tent," but they go home to visit their families often. They are encouraged by the changes that they are seeing in their country.

"Life is getting better and better here because of the Americans," said Qais. "If you get outside of Khowst city and see the little towns and villages, you will see signs of development there. Life is changing very quickly here now. During the Taliban, a lot of educated people left the country and went to other foreign countries: Europe and America and others. And now because of the increased security, they are returning and they have all of these ideas of how to develop their own country and how to move them towards prosperity."

Regional Command East / Task Force Devil

Soldier's warm welcome home Family, neighbors embrace reservist back from Afghanistan

By Jeb Phillips
The Columbus
Dispatch, Ohio

On Friday, July 1, he returned a hero, walking through his neighborhood while more than 100 neighbors cheered him and waved signs that said "We Missed You, Mr. Sarko," and "Thank You, Mr. Sarko."

All the children surrounded him that day, not really saying anything. They just wanted to be in his presence, a Marine reservist just home from Afghanistan. He was Lt. Col. Tom Sarko, as popular as Mickey Mouse or a Beatle.

Someone yelled, "Can I have your autograph?"

Then Saturday, he was Tom Sarko, 40, Ursula's husband, father of six.

"I changed five light

bulbs," he said of his first full day, while Francis, 3, hit him with a red balloon.

The routine is already back — Tom took the three oldest kids to Red, White & Boom, and they threw their annual Independence Day party. But he's been gone since before Thanksgiving. In more than 15 years with the military, it was his first deployment.

So this July 4 seemed different.

"I've always enjoyed it, but it seems a lot more special this time," he said.

He spent exactly 200 days as chief of military justice at Bagram, the main U.S. base in Afghanistan. He worked for all military branches as a kind of lead prosecutor in the country.

If any of 19,000 military personnel did something wrong, he and his deputies either advised commanders on punishments or argued for the punishments during courts-

martial.

He dealt with everything from drinking — alcohol is banned — to investigating detainee abuse. He worked 12 to 14 hours a day, every day. Rockets hit the base a few times while he was there.

"I didn't know that!" his wife said when he mentioned it yesterday.

"You'd have to run to a bunker," he said.

She sighed. "That's scary."

Ursula, 38, was under a different pressure. She had given birth to Paul three months before her husband left. Then there were Francis, 3; Kolbe, 6; Henry, 8; Oliver, 11; and Sally, 12.

They spent Thanksgiving with a friend. Just before Christmas, an ice storm took out their power, and they spent two nights with their neighbors, the Ryans — who have 11 children of their own and helped organize Tom's welcome home.

"It was good we had the ice storm," Ursula said. "Otherwise, it would have been sad without Tom."

The Sarkos' friends from St. Catharine's Church — which is down the road from their tight-knit East Side neighborhood, just east of Bexley — brought over

dinners and helped take the kids to ballgames. Someone anonymously paid a neighborhood boy to mow the Sarkos' yard.

Tom missed Henry's first communion. He returned July 1 to find that Sally had a boyfriend — which makes her blush — and that he still couldn't beat Oliver in ping pong. Francis could spell his own name.

"I think someone needs a nap," Tom said when Francis was climbing all over him.

"He doesn't take naps anymore," Ursula replied.

Tom will go back to his civilian job as a lawyer in the securities division of the state Department of Commerce after two weeks of rest. He says he has no idea what will be waiting for him there.

Still, with all the light-bulb changing and fireworks watching, he's the neighborhood hero.

On July 1, the family met him at the airport with the minivan and drove the 3 miles home. At a corner a few blocks away, he saw the

first kids with American flags. As they drove on, they saw people lined up and down both sides of the road, clapping and taking pictures.

Then Tom, who normally is soft-spoken and reserved, got out and walked the rest of the way, shaking hands and hugging as he went.

"I think people realize that Tom and Ursula made a sacrifice, and we're here to honor that sacrifice," said neighbor Megan Walker, 41.

"This is why I moved into this neighborhood, because people care so much about each other," said Andy Brewer, 45.

A lot of those signs, the ones that read "You Are A Hero," and "Welcome Home, Dad," are planted in the Sarkos' yard. They'll keep them up through July 4, to honor Tom. Then they'll have to go.

"The kids are starting to get embarrassed," Ursula said.



Lt. Col. Tom Sarko receives a surprise welcome from his East Side neighborhood. (Photo by Beth Skabar, Columbus Dispatch)



Sarko reunites with sons Kolbe, 6, left, and Francis, 3, at Port Columbus. (Photo by Beth Skabar, Columbus Dispatch)



Story and photo by Spc. Laura Griffin
TF Devil Public Affairs

ORGUN-E — A new road is under construction that will link the cities of Orgun-E and Sharana, where it can link up to the ring road system — the major trade roads in Afghanistan that form a loop by connecting major cities.

Engineers from Company B, 864th Engineer Combat Battalion (Heavy) and 391st Higher Headquarters Company Engineers started the project July 5 and are expected to finish the 64-kilometer road some time around December 15.

The current road linking the two cities more

New road to cut path to prosperity for Orgun-E

resembles a series of trails, which makes travel difficult and slow for the "jingle trucks" that carry supplies and goods in the area.

Capt. Burlin Emery, Bravo Company Commander, drove the route in early June to do an initial survey for the road's path.

"It reminded me of Baha racing," said Emery. "It was a wide-open valley with cars going everywhere. The one place that it did get down to one path was horrible. We busted a tire going through the river and had to turn around and backtrack several times just to find a passable route."

Cutting through the rocky terrain to make the road is not easy either. The heavy earthmoving equipment is in constant need of repair and maintenance.

Sgt. 1st Class Susan Peniston, a motor sergeant in Bravo Company, is in charge of ensuring those repairs get done.

"The repairs and maintenance are kind of hard to keep up with," said Peniston. "The rocks cut the tires and mud gets in everything. (Tuesday) we went through two tires and (Wednesday) we went through another two. Tires are our main problem here. We have 50 tires on stock for each piece of equipment, and that won't even last us through this whole project."

Staff Sgt. Richard Davenport, a construction equipment mechanic with Bravo Company, says that dust kicked up by the work also wreaks havoc on the equipment.

"We also have a lot of fuel problems with all the dust and sand that gets into the fuel system," he said.

1st Sgt. Eugene Russell, Bravo Company's First Sergeant, says that these sorts of problems are all just part of the job.

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Regional Command South / Task Force Bayonet

Soldiers in Regional Command South ThundHerStruck

Story and photo by Pfc. Jon Arguello
TF Bayonet Public Affairs

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD—Southern Afghanistan hasn't seen rain in months, yet the Soldiers based in Forward Operating Base Laghman, Provincial Reconstruction Team Lashkar Gah and Kandahar Airfield have all been ThundHerStruck.

ThundHerStruck, a band out of Los Angeles, Calif., entertained troops in 10 locations from the Balkans to Uzbekistan over a month. Three shows electrified Soldier morale throughout southern Afghanistan from 2-5 July. The all-female AC/DC tribute band had to compete with hundreds of Soldiers as they sung along and cheered.

The first show took place in front of a crowd of paratroopers from the 2nd Battalion 503rd Infantry (Airborne) of Task Force Rock near Qalat. The stage draped with camouflage netting was the most excitement outside of combat the Soldiers have seen since they left Italy in March.

"It wasn't just a great show," said Pfc. Brock Horner, a paratrooper with Task Force Rock. "It made us all feel like we were home; like we were going to a concert and relaxing. They gave me motivation to finish my deployment. All of us in the 173rd appreciate them for coming to a dangerous place, without weapons, just to entertain us and make us happy. They're saints and they're awesome."

FOB Laghman's young paratroopers

weren't the only appreciative fans. The shows were attended by all ranks and all ages.

"I thought they were great!" said Lt. Col. John Williams, Rapid Equipping Force commander. "I've always been a big AC/DC fan and I've been playing guitar for more than 30 years."

Williams said the band was good enough that he wanted to get closer to the stage but he didn't want to make the younger Soldiers feel like they were being watched.

"I wanted to be up front, but I don't know if my back could have handled the stage diving," he said jokingly. "Overall, they really gave me something to look forward to. For two weeks people were talking about going to the show and when it got here it was fantastic. It was a lot of fun."

Williams did have one complaint however.

"I wish I would have won the guitar," he said referring to the raffling of a bass and guitar by the band.

The bass and guitar, which were played by the band during their tour, were donated by ESP Guitar Company in North Hollywood specifically for ThundHerStruck's tour of deployed military bases.

The band was equally grateful for their servicemembers.

"The troops are there everyday fighting for



The paratroopers of the 2nd Battalion 503rd Infantry (Airborne) enjoy being ThundHerStruck by the band.

us," said ThundHerStruck rhythm guitarist Carin Toti. "We feel we can deal with it for a few weeks, when Soldiers are there for so many months, years. We feel it is an honor to be able to come and play for them, bring them a little bit of home and see those smile on their faces. It's a little frightening but well worth it."

Although the band had to deal with heat and uncomfortable military aircraft to get around, they played at every venue they had the opportunity to play at. One band member even played after needing an I.V. for dehydration, and still wished they could have played more shows.

"We wanted to do more shows," said Toti. "I was sad, but knew we had done the most we could, met the most people we could and made a lot of friends. We ate with several Soldiers on this tour and getting to know so many of them was a highlight for us. It was all around amazing."

ThundHerStruck left Kandahar Airfield, their final tour location, and began their long trip home to Los Angeles after having left hundreds of Soldiers with a little taste of home.

Soldier helps deliver Afghan baby girl in Lashkar Gah

BABY from Page 1

"Also during my exam I noticed that the baby was in breech position, feet first. The mid-wife said they didn't deliver breech babies."

Naylor quickly realized the urgency of the situation when she discovered that the baby's feet were already protruding and decided that the baby had to be delivered immediately.

"The baby was purple and the umbilical cord was prolapsed, which means the cord was also coming out meaning the baby is basically dead. So I told them, 'This baby needs to be delivered right now.'"

"We went and got the doctor who was a male and the patient was very disturbed about that so she covered her face. I said, 'No, no, I'll do it,' because I wanted to make her more comfortable, but the doctor insisted."

"He pretty much yanked the baby out by the feet. The head got stuck, which usually happens during a breech delivery."

"All I did was warn my medics that the baby was going to be alive. I didn't want them to be disturbed by a still-born baby."

"They delivered the baby and everyone thought the it would be dead so they just laid the baby down and tended to the mother. And the baby looked at me and kind of rolled its eyes."

"I said, 'Oh my goodness! That baby is alive!' They gave me gloves, I ran over there, picked up the baby and went over to the area where I saw suction and I tried to crank the suction with my foot. I ran the suction down the baby's throat to try to stimulate its breathing. As soon as I did that, it started to cry. I patted the baby and it started to turn pink"

And a little baby girl was born and in okay health.

Soldiers fix Orgun-E road

ROAD from Page 9

"We'll go through a lot of grader tires and blades, but that's anticipated," he said. "If it will help the local commerce and build allies, it will be good for us and for the nation as a whole."

Lt. Col. Alberto Rosende, Task Force Wildcat Commander, says that so far, progress on the project has been swift, despite the problems.

"The 64 kilometers of road are broken up into smaller chunks of about seven kilometers each for security reasons," he said. "Five of the first seven kilometers are already almost done, and it's only been two days."

"Orgun-E is a major hub in this area and is on a main trade route from Pakistan," continued Rosende. "We want to ensure that we can connect Orgun-E to Sharana so that these goods can get to the ring road. Cities in Afghanistan didn't grow up by the rivers, they grew up because they were on the ring road or connected to it."

Rosende also hopes that the construction process itself will help to get some money flowing into the area by hiring local residents to do some of the work and by buying necessary construction supplies from them.

"For now the road will just be an improved gravel road because asphalt is not readily available here, which makes it cost prohibitive for us," said Rosende. "USAID is planning to pave it some time in the future, we are just doing the initial work."

The estimated cost of the project is between one and two million dollars, but that could be lower depending on availability of natural resources from "borrow pits"—deposits of gravel and sand usually found in riverbeds that are free for use in the construction.

Regional Command South / Task Force Bayonet



(Left) Chosen Company headquarters calls in for close air support June 23 as they receive effective fire from enemy forces in the mountain behind them. More than 75 enemy combatants were confirmed killed. (Right) A Chosen Company element leaves the battlefield June 23 after another victory with a wounded enemy combatant. This was the second large scale victory by Chosen company 2-503rd Inf (Abn) in as many months.

Determination, trust, humility is formula for Chosen's success on battlefield

Story and photos by Pfc. Jon Arguello
TF Bayonet Public Affairs

QALAT – With only a few months in theater, one company has battered anti-Coalition forces throughout southern Afghanistan in a series of historic battles demonstrating to the enemy they have only two choices, fight and die or reconcile.

Task Force Rock's Chosen Company has proved extremely effective in eradicating any hopes anti-Coalition forces have of disrupting Afghanistan's central government. Any possibility of the insurgents regaining power has died along with several hundred enemy combatants on the battlefield as the Chosen Few make huge strides to eliminate all threats to the young democracy's stability.

As equally intriguing as the huge losses Chosen has inflicted on the enemy in battle is the amount of humility with which paratroopers view their accomplishment. These Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion 503rd Infantry (Airborne), from Vicenza, Italy, consistently pass the credit of their achievements onto each other as they explain why they are so successful, making it obvious how proficient each of the Chosen Few are in their war fighting capabilities.

"It's a testament to the aggressive spirit of the individual Soldier that we can find the enemy, fix the enemy and lay on them all the firepower that Coalition forces can provide," said Chosen Company's Commander Capt. Dirk Ringgenberg, who masterfully maneuvered his elements into two of the largest victories since the Taliban was removed from power. "We get better every time and the enemy gets dead every time."

Ringgenberg passes on much of the credit to his platoon leaders and non-commissioned officers for their excellent reactions to the Afghan environment and tactics.

"The platoons understand the terrain, how the enemy can use it, and only bold action will force the enemy to fight," said Ringgenberg. "We excellently adapted to take on this offensive role."

The victories, said Ringgenberg, are also shared by the battalion's intelligence, operations and other support sections that not only paint a good picture of the situation before Chosen arrives at the scene but also allow the company to bring the fight to the enemy and sustain it once it begins.

First Sgt. Scott Brzak credited Ringgenberg for his reaction time during the engagements.

"He's a very quick thinker," Brzak said. "He was able to position people in key locations using aircraft and control the fight. He has great battlefield awareness."

Brzak also emphasized how well every Soldier performed basic infantry tasks and how disciplined they were under fire.

"Everybody did the basics," he said. "We're successful because everybody was doing what they were supposed to. They did awesome."

It was obvious that the first sergeant was more than satisfied with his paratroopers, he had a genuine respect for their determination.

"It was a tough situation out there," he said. "The heat was incredible, the Soldiers were under fire, and when we told them to maneuver, they just said, 'roger, we'll be there,' and sure enough, they were."

Chosen's commander and first sergeant weren't the only Soldiers crediting the team for the success, the praise went in both directions as NCOs thanked their troops and those troops in turn credited their leadership for having come away with such astounding victories after being in Afghanistan for such a short time.

"It's good when you like your commander and first sergeant," explained Pfc.

Joshua Klingman, one of Chosen's combat engineers. "And it's good when they trust you enough to do an infantryman's job."

Klingman, along with a team led by combat engineer squad leader, Staff Sgt. Jesus Nerio, were used as an infantry element during the June 21 battle.

Nerio explained how important trust is in his squad: "It's beyond important. If you don't have trust, you don't have a squad. But it goes both ways, if the chain of command inspires you, especially in this case from the privates to the team leaders, your squad will do anything."

Another unit sharing the victory was Task Force Storm whose Apache helicopters played a vital role in the June 21 battle as they provided close air support with their 30mm guns and 2.75" rockets in support of the engaged paratroopers.

"Close air support was our biggest help out there," said Chosen fire support officer 2nd Lt. Brad Mercier. "Besides killing and wounding enemy, they kept them hiding in rocks so our guys could move without getting shot up."

The combined efforts of the Soldiers of Chosen and those who support them have raised the standard for all. It is clear every Soldier involved in the victories Chosen Company has had on the battlefield deserves some credit and that their performances have earned the respect and trust of their leadership and to camaraderie within the company that is rarely seen.



Sgt. Josue Valle, a combat engineer attached to Chosen Company 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry (Airborne), fires on anti-coalition forces as an Afghan National Policeman spots their location.

Regional Command South / Task Force Bayonet

'Saints' replaced by 'Wolves' during Romania TOA

**Story and photo by
Pfc. Jon Arguello
TF Bayonet Public
Affairs**



A Romanian element marches during the Transfer of Authority July 1 between the 'Saints' and the 'Wolves' at Kandahar Airfield.

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD—After six months of working alongside their American counterparts, the 300th Infantry Battalion of the Romanian Army is now going home to reflect on their successes.

The "Saint Andrew" Battalion, based in Galati, Romania, was relieved July 11 by the 151st Infantry Battalion "Black Wolves."

The 300th, which began its deployment in December, built on its reputation of success by working diligently to provide security for Kandahar Airfield and logistics convoys, as well as, providing an infantry company to work with Task Force Gun Devil in combat operations.

"The 'Saints' were an essen-

tial asset to Coalition forces for the past six months," said Col. Kevin Owens, Task Force Bayonet commander. "They have worked hard and displayed tremendous tenacity while completing their objectives. Lt. Col. Adrian Soci demonstrated excellent leadership and I'm confident that Lt. Col. Vasile Roman, a seasoned commander, will continue to build on the proud tradition the Romanian has established during its participation in Operation Enduring Freedom."

"It was a challenge," said Soci. "I look back at all the missions we've done with Task Force Bronco and Task Force Bayonet and it makes me proud of what we have done, it makes me proud of the soldiers in the battalion. They are true professionals."

"They had to adapt, which they did well," said Sgt. 1st Class Radu Predescu, the battalion's sergeant major. "They did outstanding."

One of the milestones Soci was most proud of was the completion of the new Romanian compound which is home to a Orthodox Christian church.

"We made the move in two months and it was a lot of work," Soci said. "In the end it was very satisfying."

The Romanians won't be leaving Afghanistan empty handed Soci said.

"After six months we have experienced a lot," he explained. "We

have established good relationships with the American Soldiers and we will miss working with them and the cooperation."

Predescu agreed: "In the end, we'll forget about the hard parts and what will remain are the results we've accomplished. Working with U.S. Soldiers shoulder to shoulder, fighting for democracy it has been very gratifying."

The 151st is no stranger to working with Coalition forces in Afghanistan. This will be the "Black Wolves" second six-month rotation in Operation Enduring Freedom and they have participated in several multinational operations from Africa to the Balkans.

Roman said the 151st is looking forward to getting to work and adding to their reputation.

"We plan on continuing the excellent work that the 300th Battalion has done," said Roman, during his speech. "We look forward to adding to our excellent tradition."

3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment returns home

**Story by Sgt. 1st Class
Mark Turney
HHD, 29th Infantry Division
Public Affairs**

BAGRAM AIRFIELD—With shouts of joy, tears and kisses 3rd Battalion 116th Infantry Regiment, Detachment 1 HHD 29th Infantry Division (Light) and the 229th Engineers returned from Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan after a year of combat operations.

Throughout the joy of the day, it is not without a sense of sadness that the Winchester, Va., based unit returns from Afghanistan.

"I think that the loss of Craig Cherry and Bobby Beasley was a point in our lives that we will never forget," said 22-year veteran Staff Sgt. David Dixon, from B. Company 3-116th. "I attended Sgt. Beasley's wedding and met his wife. To think that she no longer has a husband affects me a lot every day."

Staff Sgt. Craig Cherry and Sgt. Bobby Beasley, both with Headquarters and Headquarters Company's Anti-Tank Platoon, were both lost during combat operations in the Nawa District of southeastern Afghanistan 7 August, 2004, when an improvised explosive device destroyed their vehicle.

After having conducted over 1,000 combat operations, the 3-116th returns with the knowledge that they have changed the course of the country and the people of Af-

ghanistan.

"I think that we brought them some peace for the first time in 25 or 30 years," said Lt. Col. Andrew Pavord, 3-116th Battalion executive officer and veteran of three deployments. "I think that for the first time in a generation the average Afghan can go about their business of daily living and that is a huge accomplishment."

A great deal of what the Soldiers accomplished will never be known because it was done successfully.

The missions undertaken by the battalion, known throughout the theater as Task Force Normandy, have made silent history and a large impact.

During the first democratic election in the history of Afghanistan, the Soldiers of Task Force Normandy provided security for polling stations and throughout their 17,000 square miles of operating area so that Afghans could cast a vote safely despite threats by the Taliban. This mission was a huge success as not one serious attack occurred throughout the Task Force's area.

The unit stopped rocket attacks and destroyed IED's that were designed to keep Afghan's from expressing themselves. They then protected the ballots as they were transported to collection and counting stations. Not a single ballot or person was lost during the entire op-

eration.

Over the course of the year long tour, the Task Force destroyed millions of rounds of ammunition and hundreds of thousands of rockets, artillery and mortar rounds.

Led by the 229th Combat Engineers, of Fredericksburg, Va., the battalion deprived the enemy of these caches of weapons and ammunition that would have been used to target Coalition Soldiers.

The battalion was responsible for more found and destroyed caches than any other unit in Afghanistan.

"I think we had this level of success because of our close relationship with the people of Ghazni province," said Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Blake Ortner.

"I believe that we have captured more caches than anyone else in Afghanistan, certainly in the amount and variety of weapons," Ortner added. "We are the envy of the Regional Command East and a lot of other areas because of our ability to get caches."

Being first is not something that is new to the battalion.

Up-Armored HMMWV's were the life blood of combat operations in the theater and when it came to maintenance, the mechanics of Task Force Normandy were number one despite having fewer numbers and a high operational tempo.

"It was a result of long hours, cut up knuckles, and seven-day-

week weeks," said Spc. Jason Zacchetti, a Fredericksburg, Va., native and signal support systems specialist who was made a mechanic for the mobilization of the unit.

"We were able to overcome a lot of obstacles because we had a lot of really dedicated people with superior mechanical minds working 18-hour days to keep this battalion moving," said Zacchetti.

Nearly one year after touching down in Afghanistan, the Soldiers of Task Force Normandy once again saw the families they left behind 18 months ago.

"Having been in Afghanistan makes you appreciate all the little things in life that otherwise you take for granted," said Pfc. Harvey Lee Jr., a first term Soldier from Woodbridge, Va.

"I will appreciate it more when I see all my family members. It is a funny type of feeling knowing we are back home."

After a short time at Fort Bragg, N.C., where the unit will demobilize, the citizen-Soldiers of Virginia will once again begin their lives with family and friends.

"I am going to be like a little kid when I hit the ground back home," said Lee.

"I can't wait to see my mom, dad and grandmother because they are worrisome," he continued. "If they see something on TV I get tons of e-mails from them asking if I am alright. Now, finally I'm alright."

What's Happening / News You Can Use

Camp donates slots to military children

Camp Island Lake, a summer camp for kids in Starrucca, Pa., is giving away 30 free spaces this summer to children of military personnel who have served overseas since Sept. 11, 2001.

The program has been dubbed "Operation Thank You." The free slots will be offered during the camp's 3rd session, which runs from Aug. 3 to Aug. 16 and normally costs \$2,100 per child.

The camp is located in the Pocono Mountains in northeastern Pennsylvania. It sits on 550 acres of property that includes two large lakes where water-skiing and other boating activities are readily available. Campers can play sports, perform in a circus, or take part in theatre, music or dance productions. The kids can also ride horses or skateboard in the camp's own skate park. The 20,400-square-foot athletic center includes ball fields, volleyball courts, an archery center, a hockey rink, a mountain-biking center, a batting cage, basketball courts, a gymnastics center, an Olympic-size swimming pool, and an 18-hole disc golf course.

The camp also offers tutoring in a variety of subjects at no cost, and older kids can take a Stanley Kaplan SAT study course.

For more information, e-mail the camp through its website at www.islandlake.com.

TSP 'Open Season' is gone

The restrictions of having only two open seasons each year for civilian and military members to sign up for, stop, resume, or change their Thrift Savings Plan contributions has ended.

Public Law 108-469 went into effect July 1 eliminating restrictions on contribution elections that have always been tied to TSP open seasons.

The elimination of open seasons gives individuals more flexibility in managing their TSP contribution amounts depending on their personal situations. Civilians can now make 26 or 27 TSP contribution elections per year (based on pay periods) and military personnel 24 per year.

Also, contribution elections submitted on or after July 1, will be effective at the beginning of the pay period following the one in which the election is submitted.

More information on the Thrift Savings Plan is available at www.tsp.gov/.

Florida wants to help Reservists families in need

If a Reservist's family in Florida has a financial emergency while the Reservist is on active duty and deployed, the State of Florida wants to help. Starting July 1, financial assistance is available to eligible residents of Florida who are dependents of military people in the reserve components.

The Air Force Reserve Command is working closely with the Florida National Guard to iron out the details of applying for this aid.

To apply for this aid, a reservist or family member can contact the Air Force Reserve family support offices at Duke Field, Homestead Air Reserve Base or Patrick AFB in Florida. Applicants can also find [instructions online](#) under the 'Florida Family Readiness Program' heading.

CNN tours offer military free admission

Turner Broadcasting System, Inc. (TBS, Inc.) is offering ongoing free admission for all active and retired U.S. military personnel who visit the CNN-themed attractions at CNN Center in Atlanta and Manhattan's Time Warner Center. Inside CNN Atlanta and Inside CNN New York will provide free admission to military personnel with a valid I.D. All active and retired military personnel and reservists can visit the attractions at no cost, while their spouse, children, siblings, or parents may enter at a discounted rate of \$7 at Inside CNN Atlanta and \$12 at Inside CNN New York.

To receive the discount, military-family members must be accompanied by the military member with I.D. Groups depart several times each hour at both attractions.

For hours and reservations at Inside CNN New York, visitors can call 1-866-4CNNNYC or visit www.cnn.com/insidecnn/. For reservations to Inside CNN Atlanta, visitors can call 1-877-4CNNTOUR or visit www.cnn.com/StudioTour.

Get mail there faster

Note from a spouse.

I discovered today why letters from Afghanistan to Germany go through JFK. The mail clerks here in Afghanistan are trained to put any letters marked "FREE" where the stamp is supposed to go into the bags destined for JFK. Any letters marked "MPS" get off-loaded at Ramstein where they are sorted and delivered to CMRs in Europe.

Families should tell their soldier spouses to be sure and mark their letters to Europe-based DoD addresses "MPS" instead of "FREE". Of course, mail going to the states can be marked "FREE" when mailed from downrange.

Just wanted to pass along a helpful tip my husband learned from talking to the mail clerks in Afghanistan.

Submit your unit's story

Tell the whole CJOA what your unit is doing. The Patriot is always on the lookout for amateur journalists and photographers who have a story to tell.

Send your stories to schultea@cjt76.centcom.mil. Stand alone photos are also welcome.

Remember when submitting stories and photos to remember the 5 W's of journalism: who, what, where, when and why. Also include full names, rank and units of troops involved and of the author.

Stories will be edited for content and to meet journalistic standards.

Free Stuff!

The Patriot will feature a web site per issue which offers free stuff for service members.

Love cookies? Get some sent to you.

<http://www.treatthetroops.org/>

Check out the lowest airfares available.

<http://bluestarmoms.org/airfare.html>

Financial protection for deployed service members

Two acts provide financial protection for service members who have been deployed.

The Service-members Civil Relief Act (SCRA) provides protection to active duty, Reserve and National Guard members called to active duty for 20 days or more. It allows a service member to postpone court hearings or administrative hearings if they are unable to appear due to military service.

It also allows a service member to reduce the interest rate on pre-service loans and obligations to six percent per year, if military service materially affects his/her ability to pay the debt. It requires a court order before evicting service members or their families from premises for which the monthly rent does not exceed \$2,534.32 for the year 2005. [Click here for more information on the SCRA.](#)

The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) applies primarily to Reserve component Soldiers and ensures that members of the Uniformed Services are entitled to prompt return to their civilian employment upon completion of their service.

It also protects individuals from discrimination in hiring, promotion, and retention on the basis of present or future membership in the Uniformed Services.

It sets time limits for invoking the reemployment rights based on the length of the period of active service.

[Click here for more information on USERRA.](#)

IG Dispatch / Inspector General

IG Top 5 Complaint Categories

(June 2005)

1. **Personnel Management**
(Orders, Enlisted Promotions, Leaves & Passes, Casualty Management, Redeployment)
2. **Command Management**
(Mental Health Referrals, Counseling, Command Climate, Cdr's Discretion, Sponsorship)
3. **Community/Installation Support**
(AAFES Facilities and MWR Programs)
4. **Personal Conduct**
(Maltreatment of Service Members and GO#1 Violations)
5. **Finance**
(Retention Bonuses and Combat Entitlements)

Tools for leaders

The CJTF76 Office of the Inspector General (OIG) offers a variety of tools to help you, the leader, maximize effectiveness. Please visit our SIPR home page at <http://www.cjtf76.centcom.smil.mil>.

For a NIPR version of this site, OIG offers the IG Automated Toolbox (IGAT). The IGAT is a compact electronic reference tool, containing references to many Army regulations, tactics, techniques, and procedures. The IGAT includes the IG Pocket Reference Guide that may be reproduced and disseminated to your Service Members. If you would like a copy of this CD, contact MSG Antonaccio at DSN 318-231-4028 or email at thomasa@cjtf76.centcom.mil.

FREEDOM WATCH publishes a monthly IG article devoted solely to frequently asked questions.

Finally, OIG conducts NCOPDs on IG policies and procedures (currently on BAF only)

IG Functions

- **Assistance** (informal fact-finding in response to requests for help or information)
- **Inspections** (tailored to meet the commander's needs; focused on systemic issues)
- **Investigations** (formal fact-finding in response to allegations of impropriety)
- **Teaching and Training** (Army systems, processes, procedures and standards)

IG Offices

Bagram IG Office:
Lt. Col. Brian Williams
Master Sgt. Thomas Antonaccio
Spc. Talaya Williams (admin)
318-231-4028

Kandahar IG Office:
Lt. Col. Jayne Jansen
318-841-1702/1703

Salerno IG Office:
Maj. Harlie Treat
(currently being set up)

First Be Right...Then Take Action

Nonsupport Inquiries

Soldiers are required to manage their personal affairs in a manner that does not bring discredit upon themselves or the United States Army. This responsibility includes providing child support and/or alimony based on court orders, written support agreements, or the minimum support provisions of AR 608-99, paragraph 2-6.

The majority of Soldiers have little, if any, trouble managing their financial support obligations. However, certain circumstances may necessitate command and/or Inspector General involvement. What follows is a step-by-step approach that commanders/leaders should use when addressing nonsupport inquiries while here in theater:

STEP ONE: Begin by determining the facts. Find out when the Soldier provided the last support payment, what type, and in what amount. Ensure that your rear detachment responds to any immediate needs the family may have—medical care, housing, or subsistence.

STEP TWO: Determine the Soldier's financial support obligation. Is there a financial support agreement? A court order? If there is no support agreement or court order, the support provisions of AR 608-99, paragraph 2-6, apply. Consult with your legal advisor at SJA for assistance.

STEP THREE: Get the Soldier's side of the story. If the Soldier claims he's been providing support, verify proof of payment. Money order receipts allotments, canceled checks, or other monetary payments with command verification may serve as valid proofs of payment. Note: AR 608-99 is a punitive regulation. If you suspect the Soldier is in violation of the provisions of this regulation, advise him of his Article 31 rights. Allow him to consult with legal assistance, if necessary.

sary.

STEP FOUR: Order compliance by counseling the Soldier in writing. Determine the appropriate form and timing of financial support IAW paragraph 2-7. Although payment by check or money order is authorized, urge the Soldier to provide the support by allotment. Payments in kind (rent, utilities, insurance, etc.) are only acceptable if agreed to by both parties in writing.

STEP FIVE: Send a reply, in writing, to the spouse (or complainant) within 14 days of receipt of the nonsupport allegation. You can find a sample reply (along with a copy of AR 608-99) on the IG's SIPR home page at <https://www.cjtf76.centcom.smil.mil>.

Note: If the Inspector General directed the nonsupport inquiry, provide us a copy of this response along with supporting documentation (proof of payment, etc) and any corrective action taken to ensure future compliance.

STEP SIX: Verify compliance. You must verify the Soldier initiates appropriate financial support. If the Soldier chooses to start an allotment, ensure he makes interim payments until the allotment takes effect. Note: there is no legal means for the military to enforce collection of arrearages. Nevertheless, in all cases, Soldiers should be encouraged, but not ordered, to pay arrearages.

STEP SEVEN: Continue to monitor the financial support in the future months.

Almost every non-support case is different. Nevertheless, the actions taken should enhance the enforcement of the regulation, while avoiding actions that enable or foster the efforts of Soldiers to evade the requirements of the regulation, the application of laws, or the enforcement of court orders.

CJTF-76 Sunday Religious Services

Bagram Airfield's Enduring Faith Chapel

0400Z Liturgical
Protestant Worship
0530Z Roman Catholic Mass
0700Z Protestant Worship
0830Z Latter Day Saints Worship
1115Z Korean Worship Service
1300Z Gospel Service



Kandahar Airfield's Fraise Chapel

0330Z Protestant Worship Service
0500Z Roman Catholic Mass
0600Z Protestant Worship Service (SF Compound Chapel)
0600Z Orthodox Worship Service (Romanian Orthodox Chapel)
0630Z Protestant Worship Service
0830Z Latter Day Saints Services
1430Z Gospel Worship Service

Forward Operating Base Salerno

0400Z Protestant Worship Service
0530Z Divine Liturgy of the Eucharist
0700Z Latter Day Saints Service
0830Z Gospel Worship

Forward Operatina Base Orgun-E

0630Z and 1600Z Protestant Worship Service
0800Z and 1500Z Roman Catholic Mass

Special / Fourth of July Celebrations

July 4th celebrations with Afghan twist in Salerno

Story and photos by
Sgt. Chuck Meseke
TF Devil Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO - The Soldiers of Task Force Devil stationed at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, had all the ingredients necessary for an Independence Day celebration.

The sun was beating down, the smell of meat on a grill wafted through the air, cold drinks being served, a volleyball tournament underway, the rock and roll music blaring, and a group of local Afghans dancing the Afghan National Dance to the beat of drums on a nearby basketball court.

The dancing may not have been a traditional part of a July 4 celebration, but it was welcomed by many of the Soldiers who stood watching as Afghans from a nearby university celebrated the American holiday along side the Soldiers working to bring security and stability to the area along the Afghan-Pakistan border.

"It helps us appreciate their culture, it was very nice of them, very generous," said 1st Lt. Michael

Lewandowski, executive officer of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, TF Devil.

"This was a lot more interesting than any 4th of July celebration I've ever been to," he added.

The Afghans who attended, including the Khowst provincial governor Mera Juddin Pathan, also enjoyed the celebration.



joyed the celebration.

"Today is a nice day, I am happy to be here with the people and celebrate," said Nassimi Nooramin, a Khowst native who helps the FOB get local supplies.

Nooramin compared America's Independence Day to Afghanistan's yearly celebration of their independence from the Soviet Union that is celebrated on the 7th and 8th of the Islamic month of Gadui.

"It is very similar, we also



Dancers perform the Afghan National Dance during the July 4 celebrations. Teams battle it out on during a volleyball game at Salerno.

have sports and a lot of food," Nooramin said.

The Afghan National Dance was followed by skits that were performed by students of a drama class at the university.

At the conclusion of the celebration Pathan and Lt. Col. George Donovan, commander of Task Force White Devil, spoke to the crowd on the importance of the partnership between Afghan and Coalition forces.

"As a proud nation we enjoy the partnership between Afghanistan and America," Pathan said.

"We can be proud that through our partnership we can build a stronger Afghanistan."

"I hope that 229 years from now, we will be celebrating your freedom," Donovan concluded.

As a final conclusion to the day an explosion shook the dusty ground of the FOB and flames leapt high into the sky. No, it wasn't a rocket attack; it was a controlled detonation by the base's explosive ordnance disposal unit that left a fitting end to an Independence Day that was like any other, just with an Afghan twist.

Discount travel



United is now offering reduced fares for active duty and reserve members of the Navy, Marines, Army, Air Force and National Guard. In addition, servicemembers' spouses and dependent children are also eligible. These special fares are not available at the United Airlines website.

To purchase the special fares, service members should contact United Reservations at 1-800-241-6522 and identify themselves as eligible for military fares.

All passengers eligible for these and other military fares must carry proper identification. Servicemembers can travel with these special fares all the way through January 31, 2006.

For more information on Military Travel Specials visit www.military.com/Travel <<http://www.military.com/Travel>> <<<http://www.military.com/Travel>>>

Deployed Soldiers linked to loved ones in Vicenza with July 4th VTC

Story by Sgt. Tara Teel
CJTF-76 Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD - "Hi mom." "Hi dad." "We love you and miss you."

Loving greetings from spouses, children and friends rang throughout the night as July 4 celebrations from Vicenza, Italy, were broadcasted in a live video-teleconference linking deployed Soldiers at Bagram Airfield to those back home.

More than 40 Soldiers watched the celebrations on from the theater-quality projection image beamed on the side of the Joint Operations Center building. Because of the time difference, the VTC kicked off at about 11:00 p.m. and many Soldiers broke away from their sleep for a few hours to join the shouts from Vicenza and images of their families.

The preparations took a lot of work and coordination between the VTC operators in the J6 section in Bagram and those back in Italy, as well as those up in Germany.

"We prepared for about four weeks and had about four or five

tests before the actual VTC," said Staff Sgt. Gary Boatner, J6 VTC NCOIC. "During the tests, everything worked and went fine."

Coordination with the Vicenza folks was key in the preparations, said Boatner. They had to set up times to do the tests, and coordinate those times with the Heidelberg, Germany, J6 VTC staff and the staff in Stuttgart, Germany.

"The Soldiers were ecstatic," said Boatner. "They were all very thankful to the command for them for giving them the chance to see their family."

"My wife stopped at the big screen and my daughter said, 'Is that daddy?' and I got to say hello and



Soldiers at Bagram Airfield interact with families and friends back in Vicenza, Italy, via video-teleconference during the July 4 celebrations. (Photo by Pvt. Cletis Van Dam, CJTF-76 Public Affairs)

tell them that I loved them," said Spc. Richard Andriolo, an administration specialist at Bagram Airfield. "My daughter was dancing for me and my son was saying 'Daddy, I love you'. It was really nice, it was a great opportunity."

The VTC lasted for about four hours and for those four hours, the Soldiers at Bagram Airfield, could talk and laugh with their family and friends like they were beside each other and not hundreds of miles away.